**Evaluating Equitable Resilience Building Actions**

## [Purpose](#_[Name_of_Chapter)

To narrow down the brainstormed list of resilience actions to a short, prioritized list of actions that will have the greatest impact on reducing hazards and improving equity in your community.

## What you will need

**Who:** Workshop participants, facilitators

**Where:** In-person or virtual workshop

**How long will it take:** 1-2 hours

**Materials:** Lists of brainstormed actions on easel pads, five copies of the Actions Evaluation Table (end of this document) for each breakout group, writing materials

## Instructions

This activity is customizable depending on your objectives and how much time you have. An overview is provided in the table below.

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| **Time needed** | **Activity** | **Result** |
| 15 minutes | Part 1: Review and initial prioritization of actions | Narrow the list of brainstormed actions to those that are higher priority for participants. |
| 90 minutes | Part 2: Evaluate the priority actions | Details about the suggested actions, including anticipated impacts on hazard mitigation and equity. |
| 15 minutes | Part 3: Final prioritization | Top priority actions after evaluation, including potential trade-offs. |

## Part 1: Review and Initial Prioritization of Actions (15 minutes)

1. Everyone should walk around the room and look at the easel pads with lists of brainstormed actions generated in the previous activity. As you do, discuss your reactions with other participants: thoughts and feelings about the different actions, their pros and cons, and how effective they are likely to be.
2. Everyone gets 4 dots to vote for the action(s) that they like best. They can spread the dots across Action Areas, within an Action Area, or give all 4 to their top choice action.

**Part 2: Evaluate the priority actions (90 minutes)**

1. Participants return to their Action Area break-out groups. Look at the voting results from Part 1 and select 2-3 actions to discuss further. (10 minutes)
2. Using the prompts and table below, discuss how each action could have the biggest impact on reducing hazards and improving equity in the community. Assign a notetaker to record ideas in the table. Spend about 10 minutes per action. You may want to discuss actions in order from most to least popular to manage your time. (30 minutes)
3. How can positive impacts on hazard mitigation be maximized? Does this action have the potential to build resilience to more than one hazard- including hazards most likely to affect your community, and/or hazards that might be lower probability but higher consequence?
4. How can positive impacts on equity be maximized, particularly to address underlying issues and achieve the vision? Refer back to the Assess workshop and the equity issues discussed.
5. Who will benefit the most from each action? Will the action benefit a large number of people and/or a particularly impacted or vulnerable group?
6. Rotate break-out groups to a new table and have the new group review and add to the table and complete the remaining sections. (30 minutes)
   1. What are the tradeoffs of choosing this action over another? Are there unintended consequences that might have a negative impact?
   2. Are there synergies with other actions on your list that can make it more equitable, feasible, etc.?
   3. How can this action leverage existing community resources?
7. Return to your original Action Area break-out group. Review and discuss the comments from the rotation break-out group. Make any adjustments or clarifications necessary to the table. (15 minutes).

Example: Evaluating Actions for Equity and Hazard Mitigation Impact

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Action Area** | Flooding is severely impacting residents of Parkview neighborhood | |
| **Vision** | In 10 years, the impacts of flooding should be reduced in Parkview neighborhood and residents should be better able to prepare for and recover from flooding | |
| **Action #1** | Create a resilience hub in a community center in Parkview neighborhood by renovating an existing building or building a new center. | |
| **Number of Votes**  8 | **Maximizing Hazard Mitigation** | **Maximizing Equitable Outcomes** |
| * Build with resilient flood-proof design * Create green infrastructure and improved storm water management around the center. * Can also serve as a cooling center during heat waves. * Can also serve as a testing and vaccination center during pandemics. | * Can serve as a hub for disaster preparedness, response, and relief services for neighborhood residents * Serve as location for training programs and resources for flood-proofing homes * Provides a space for youth recreation and development programs * Ensure information and services are offered in all relevant languages in the community |
| **Who benefits?**   * Residents of Parkview and other surrounding neighborhoods. * Youth and youth serving social service programs * Social service programs needing to reach clients * Emergency managers needing to educate residents | | |
| **Unintended consequences and trade-offs** | * Should resources be spent on flood-proofing homes instead? * Would people be encouraged to stay in an area that is unsafe? | |
| **Synergies with other actions** | * This action would be complimented by the establishment of a community-wide early warning system for severe storms, so residents have time to evacuate. | |
| **Existing Resources Leveraged** | * Vacant, elevated plot of land owned my city and available for use * Equipment and materials from old community center can be transferred to new community center, saving on costs * Local engineering consultants may be willing to provide support at reduced cost * Local organizations may be willing to help provide funding | |

## Part 3: Final Prioritization (30 minutes)

1. Each break-out group gets 5 minutes to share 1-2 highlights about their actions with the entire group. Use a timekeeper to make sure each group gets a chance to share.
2. Then, participants votes for their top 3 actions from any Action Area. Be sure to set expectations about voting. People are stating their preference, but just because an idea got the most votes doesn't automatically mean it will get implemented. Be clear about how you will use the results of the voting, e.g., if you are creating or updating a resilience plan how will the results of the workshop be used in the plan?

## What to Do Next

Return to the ERB, use the information generated in this activity to answer Question 4 on the Key Takeaways Form on Strategizing Actions, then move on to the next activity in the workshop: Strategy Planning.

Evaluating Actions for Equity and Hazard Mitigation Impact

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Action Area** |  | |
| **Vision** |  | |
| **Action #\_\_** |  | |
| **Number of Votes**  \_\_\_\_ | **Maximizing Hazard Mitigation** | **Maximizing Equitable Outcomes** |
|  |  |
| **Who benefits?** | | |
| **Unintended consequences and trade-offs** |  | |
| **Synergies with other actions** |  | |
| **Existing Resources Leveraged** |  | |